



DEPARTMENT OF STATE INSTRUCTION

Approved For Release 2002/06/24 : CIA-RDP91-00682R000300030061-2

CONFIDENTIAL

NO.: CA-6089 April 23, 1954

SUBJECT: Kersten Committee Interviews

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TO: HICOG, Bonn
Consulate General, MunichReference: Department telegram to Bonn 2906, Rptd Munich 347,
dated Apr. 15.

I. Aide Memoire from Federal Republic dated March 31, 1954:

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany has upon request reconsidered its previous decision with respect to the desire of the Select Committee of the House of Representatives under the Chairmanship of Congressman Charles J. Kersten to hold open hearings in Germany for the purpose of studying the communist tactics in the seizure of power in the communist dominated countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

The Federal Republic regrets that it cannot change its decision. However, desiring to cooperate to the greatest possible extent, it interposes no objection, the United States Government attaching importance to this project, to give its consent to the holding of private interviews in the U.S. Consulate General at Munich, Germany, on the understanding that:

(a) The interviews will be conducted in private, and

(b) The subject matter covered in the interviews will be confined as explained to Ambassador Krekeler by Congressman Kersten, to a study of the tactics employed in the communist seizure of power in communist dominated areas of Central and Eastern Europe and will avoid a discussion of delicate and speculative political issues which is liable to be detrimental to the interests of the Federal Republic of Germany.

With respect to (a) above, it is the understanding of the Government of the Federal Republic that the private interviews contemplated will not be open to the public or the press and that none of the subject matter covered in such interviews will be disclosed to the public or the press during the Committee's stay in Germany.

State Dept. review completed

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4/2/54

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CLEARANCES:

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II. Letter from Assistant Secretary Morton to Congressman Kersten dated April 1, 1954:

Dear Mr. Kersten:

The Department has received the attached Aide-Memoire from the Diplomatic Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany. You will note that the Federal Republic is willing to agree to private interviews conducted by the Committee in the U.S. Consulate General at Munich subject to certain understandings.

The representative of the Mission, in further elaboration of the understandings expressed in the Aide-Memoire, gave as illustration of the type of subjects, the discussion of which might be detrimental to the interests of the Federal Republic, the Oder-Neisse Line, and the Sudeten German question. In order to insure against any discussion which might inadvertently be detrimental to the interests of the Federal Republic, I am sure that the Committee will wish to have the judgment of officers of the Department who are most familiar with the Federal Republic's situation. This can best be accomplished by seeking the advice of the U.S. Consul General at Munich and his staff and by arranging for officers of the Department to review, with the staff of the Committee, transcripts of the interviews prior to their incorporation into the record of the Committee.

With respect to disclosures to the press and public, the Department pointed out to the representative of the Mission that the Committee would undoubtedly be questioned by newspaper representatives. The Department inquired whether the understanding expressed in the Aide-Memoire would preclude any response to such questions. The representative indicated that the Government of the Federal Republic would not consider that the understanding precluded statements by the Committee as to their purpose in being in Germany, provided such statements remained within the terms of the understanding. In this connection the Committee might wish, upon announcing its departure for Germany, to issue a press release which might be mutually agreed by the Committee and the Department of State. Any subsequent statements to the press could then be kept within the context of such release.

The Department understands that the Committee may wish to bring certain witnesses to Munich from outside Germany. The Department is confident that the Committee understands that this will not be possible in the case of any individual whose admission to Germany is opposed by the Federal Republic.

If the Committee agrees, the Department proposes to send the attached reply to the Federal Republic's Aide-Memoire.

Sincerely yours,

Thruston B. Morton
Assistant Secretary

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III. Letter from Representative Kersten to Assistant Secretary Morton dated April 16, 1954.

Dear Mr. Morton:

This is with reference to your letter of April 1st enclosing a copy of Aide-Memoire from the Diplomatic Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany, together with proposed Draft Aide-Memoire to the Diplomatic Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The Committee is in complete agreement with the Department's proposed reply to the Aide-Memoire from the Diplomatic Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany, and has asked me to express appreciation to the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany for its cooperation and the courtesies which have been extended.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Department of State for its fine assistance in this matter, as well as express my personal thanks to you.

Sincerely yours,

Charles J. Kersten
Chairman

IV. Aide-Memoire from Department to Mission of Federal Republic of Germany dated April 23, 1954.

The Government of the United States of America acknowledges the receipt of the Aide-Memoire dated March 31, 1954 from the Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The Department of State is gratified to learn that the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany has no objection to the holding of private interviews in the United States Consulate General at Munich, Germany, by the Select Committee of the House of Representatives under the Chairmanship of Representative Charles J. Kersten. The Department confirms that the United States Government attaches importance to this project.

The Department has transmitted a copy of the Aide-Memoire of the Federal Republic to Representative Kersten, accompanied by a letter a copy of which is attached. Representative Kersten has advised the Department that the Committee desires to conduct such interviews in accordance with the understandings set forth in the Aide-Memoire and as elaborated in the Department's letter. The Committee now plans to go to Germany for this purpose early in June.

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